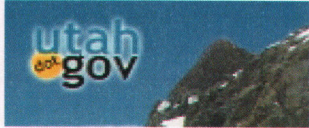


Incoming  
M162310071  
5866

Emily Berry &lt;emilyberry@utah.gov&gt;

## Fwd: Hi Cal Release

1 message

Paul Baker &lt;paulbaker@utah.gov&gt;

Mon, Apr 21, 2014 at 8:53 AM

To: "Berry, Emily" <emilyberry@utah.gov>, Penny Berry <pennyberry@utah.gov>, "Western, Wayne" <waynewestern@utah.gov>

Based on this e mail, would you give task 5866 an issue date of 3/18/2014? We and the BLM have a difference of opinion about whether there is adequate vegetation and we can give final bond release, but we both did inspections in the middle of winter when it's hard to evaluate vegetation.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bays, Duane** <dbays@blm.gov>

Date: Tue, Mar 18, 2014 at 9:21 AM

Subject: Re: Hi Cal Release

To: Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov>

Cc: "Western, Wayne" <waynewestern@utah.gov>, Joelle McCarthy <jmccarth@blm.gov>, Michael Gates <mgates@blm.gov>, Eric Reid <ereid@blm.gov>

Paul,

I apologize - Wayne asked me about this a while back, and I haven't gotten back to you. I'd like to talk to our range specialists, and I haven't been able to do that yet.

I recall the observation that there was little revegetation because "cows have eaten everything." The earthwork is quite adequate, and the only remaining issue is revegetation. I did an inspection of the site on January 22 of this year, and it doesn't have very good vegetative cover. I can see that the surface was scarified and re-seeded, but the desirable vegetation is sparse, and there are several patches of Russian thistle. The Russian thistle will likely go away over time if the desirable vegetation can establish itself.

I'd like to ask our range specialists about the acceptability of the site and get back to you. Cattle will be likely to continue to graze on the new shoots of vegetation, so the question is whether the vegetation will recover under continued grazing.

Best wishes,

Duane Bays  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Bureau of Land Management  
Fillmore Field Office  
95 East 500 North  
Fillmore, Utah 84631

(435) 743-3115

On Tue, Mar 18, 2014 at 8:21 AM, Paul Baker <paulbaker@utah.gov> wrote:  
Duane--



On February 17 I went to the Hi Cal mine with the idea of determining whether we could release the remainder of the bond (\$6000). I've attached my inspection report.

As you will see, I didn't take quantitative vegetation cover measurements, but based on the species present, the lack of weeds, the lack of erosion problems, and the amount of cover, I believe the remaining bond can be released. Although I don't believe there's as much vegetation cover in the reclaimed area as in the undisturbed areas, it's mainly because of the difference in communities and the amount of grazing in reclaimed areas. The cows like grass a lot better than sagebrush, so that's where they're going.

Look at the report and let me know what you think. We will need a letter from Mike if you agree the remaining bond can be released. I suspect you will want to visit the area or have a vegetation specialist do it before you give an answer, but please put it on your list of things to do when you're in the area.

Thanks.

--

Paul Baker  
Minerals Program Manager  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
[801-538-5261](tel:801-538-5261)  
M-W, F

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Paul Baker  
Minerals Program Manager  
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
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## 2 attachments



**DSC03259.JPG**  
2805K



**DSC03261.JPG**  
2754K